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The notices were announces and at 5 o'clock, P. M., the Association adjourned until the following morning, at 10 o'clock, A. M.

## FIFTH SESSION.\*

The **Fifth Session** was devoted to a meeting of the PHONETIC SECTION. The meeting was called to order at 3.30 P. M., Dec. 30, by Prof. A. M. BELL, President of the Section.

The Secretary, Mr. C. H. GRANDGENT, submitted the following report, which was adopted:—

### PHONETIC SECTION.

#### SECRETARY'S REPORT FOR 1891.

The results of my first circular, sent out in August, 1890, are still unpublished: I have on hand Prof. J. P. FRUIT's phonetic notation of an 'Uncle Remus' story, and seven American versions of paragraph thirty-eight of SWEET'S 'Elementarbuch.' The latter transcriptions represent the States of Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Missouri, New York, Pennsylvania, and are accompanied by explanatory notes and introductions. I hope that all of this matter will be printed in 1892, by the American Dialect Society. I have, moreover, through the kindness of Mr. C. P. LEBON and Dr. R. HOCHDÖRFER, been able to make an interesting study of French vowels, and careful measurements and drawings of all the principal German vowels and the German consonants that are hardest for Americans to imitate. The fruits of this research I expect soon to publish in a form that will show modern language teachers the practical utility of this kind of phonetic investigation.

My second and third circulars, which were distributed in the autumn of 1890 and the spring of 1891, were intended to draw out some information with regard to the prevalence and the geographical distribution of certain varieties of American pronunciation. The facts elicited by the two sets of questions have appeared in *Modern Language Notes* for January and December 1891. I think I have succeeded in making a tolerably satisfactory study of some features of the speech of educated persons in New England, the Middle States (except Delaware), Ohio, Maryland, Kentucky, Tennessee, and the Carolinas. All of these states except the last two I have visited myself. From the rest of the country my returns have been very meagre. A few interesting matters that I have not yet thoroughly investigated are the values of *wh*, the different types of *r*, the "coronal" pronunciation of certain vowels, the *a-æ* and the *o-ɔ* series, and the Southern varieties of *v*, *û*, and *u*. When I have collected material concerning

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\*The Secretary of the Association regrets that he is unable to give the discussions on the papers of the **Fourth Session**, since the Stenographer failed to send in a report both of this and of the Fifth Session. The notes here presented for the PHONETIC SECTION, have been kindly furnished by the Secretary of the Section.

these points, I hope to put together, in one article, the results of all my researches in this direction. I shall be glad to receive suggestions or bits of information from any source.

The scale on which the financial operations of the Phonetic Section have been conducted may be seen from this report:—

## RECEIVED.

Membership fees and contributions from the following persons:

A. F. CHAMBERLAIN, Miss KATE CRANZ, A. M. ELLIOTT,  
C. H. GRANDGENT, G. HEMPL, E. S. JOYNES, G. L. KITT-  
REDGE, C. W. SUPER, H. A. TODD.....\$ 10.00

## EXPENDED.

Printing .....	\$ 5.00
Envelopes.....	1.00
Stamps.....	4.00
Total.....	\$ 10.00

C. H. GRANDGENT,  
*Secretary.*

Prof. BELL then read a paper on

1. *The Sounds of R.*

The discussion of this paper was opened by Prof. SAMUEL PORTER, of the National Deaf-Mute College of Washington:—

The vowelized *r* may be very common in the South of England, but it cannot be regarded as the standard type in America. I pronounce in all cases, before a consonant as well as elsewhere, a distinct consonant *r*, which I form just above the upper teeth. It may be urged that the adoption of the South English pronunciation would increase our stock of available rimes; we should, for instance, be able to rime 'saw' and 'bore,' as was done in a book for children that I saw recently. But, seriously speaking, is it not our duty to oppose the spread of this slovenly style of pronouncing? The vowelized *r* is the result of indolence and effeminacy; its use gives the impression of lazy and careless habits on the part of the speaker. A strong, energetic, and manly race should preserve the consonant *r* that gives character to its speech.

Prof. BELL said, in reply, that he could not agree with Prof. PORTER in treating matters of pronunciation as moral questions. He could not see, moreover, that Prof. PORTER's pronunciation of *r* differed essentially from his own. Many persons, he said, thought they sounded a consonant *r*, when in reality they used only a glide.

Prof. E. S. SHELDON (Harvard University), made the following remarks:—

In mentioning some features of my own pronunciation I wish to be understood, not as giving examples of standard English, but merely